

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
March 20, 2014

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, Catherine Garnett, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Michelle Durocher and David White of the Commission. Corinna Beckwith, Commission Administrator, was absent. Also present were Susan Chapnick, Bruce Whelple, Joey Glushko and Waldemar Medeiros.

7:45pm – Commission Business:

The Commission held an informal working session with Joey Glushko to provide preliminary feedback on a draft Request for Determination of Applicability that she plans to submit on behalf of the Spy Pond Committee. Mr. Tirone inquired why this particular site was being singled out for repair at this time given the equally deteriorated state of numerous other similar sites around the pond. Ms. Glushko acknowledged there were very real needs elsewhere as well, but that the Spy Pond Committee believed this site warranted attention first given its high use and value as a viewpoint of the pond.

Ecofest will be held on March 29 at Town Hall from 10-2pm. Mr. White will coordinate scheduling for coverage of a table shared with other community groups.

The annual Spring clean-up of Meadowbrook Park is scheduled for April 12 from 9 am to Noon.

8:00pm – **Notice of Intent** – (cont'd hearing) Mystic River Oil Spill and clean up

No additional information had been obtained from Clean Harbors since questions had been sent to them in preparation for completing the Response Action Outcome (RAO) Statement. In addition to the Commission's questions, Ms. Susan Chapnick had submitted detailed questions to Clean Harbors regarding the remediation. One of her stated concerns related to Clean Harbors' application of the new DEP regulations for comparing sediment data in relation to benchmarks. Ms. Chapnick will email Clean Harbors. Because her questions related to 21E compliance and were not related to wetlands, the Commission agreed this could be a proper next step.

Mr. White made a motion to continue the hearing to 8 pm on 4/17; Mr. Connors seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm – **Discussion** - Symmes

There were no updates on Symmes. With the recent approval of the Conservation Restriction, the process is now with the State.

8:25 pm **Discussion** – Proposed development of Busa Farm adjacent to Reservoir

Given the inclusion of the Reservoir on the 303B list of impaired resource areas, Commissioners expressed that we should use any means that may arise from this development to mitigate any of the run-off from the property and incorporate improvements to the storm drain pipe that drains into the pond from the Lexington site. The Commission decided to draft a letter to Lexington to open communication at this early stage of the project to stress how much effort and investment has been made by Arlington to improve the water quality of the pond and how we would like to use the opportunity of the project to incorporate improvements to water quality. The letter will be directed to the Lexington Selectmen, LexHab, the Lexington Conservation Commission, and the Lexington CPA committee.

On a related note, as part of monitoring the area after it was used by the DPW as a snow dump this winter, Mr. Tirone reported on the conditions that he observed at the Reservoir parking lot and surrounding area when he examined the site and took photographs on the morning of March 20. One of the photographs depicted bark damage at the base of a large tree in the area, but Commissioners determined that, due to the age of the damage, it had clearly not occurred as a result of the recent DPW activity. Although the erosion control fencing had been damaged by the wind over the course of the season, the site showed no signs of any sheet flow or debris from the activity had migrated into the pond.

#### 8:30pm – **Discussion** - Membership

Mr. Stevens reported that he notified the Board of Selectman and the Town Manager that the Commission had approved at the March 6th meeting to appoint Janine White as a Full member for a 3 year term. The Commission resumed the discussion continued from the last meeting to make decisions on the two remaining vacancies of one Full member and one Associate member. The Commission had a thorough discussion of the qualifications of the remaining applicants and the Commission's most pressing needs resulting from the recent resignation of Chris Naylor, the Commission's storm water expert, and the upcoming resignation of Catherine Garnett, the Commission's landscape architect. In the end, the majority of members expressed that Ms. Chapnick's professional familiarity with both permitting practices and experience with interpreting regulations would be a significant asset as a voting member. All Commissioners were also very impressed with Mr. Nonni's professional landscape design knowledge, a skill set that is extremely valuable and necessary for the Commission. Given Mr. Nonni's expressed commitment to come to the meetings and provide his expertise to the Commission if appointed to either Full or Associate member, the group decided that an Associate membership would be extended to him.

Mr. Tirone made a motion that Ms. Susan Chapnick be appointed as a Full member and that Mr. Michael Nonni be appointed as an Associate member. Mr. Connors seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 8:45pm – **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination** – Lot E Dothan Rd

There have been no developments on Lot E Dothan Street. Progress to contract with Hughes Environmental to perform a peer review of the site has been delayed within Town Hall. Motion made by Ms. Coleman to continue Lot E Dothan Street to 9 pm on April 3. Mr. White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business, cont.

### **Community Preservation Act**

The Commission resumed its discussion of whether to endorse Warrant Article 22 on the Community Preservation Act. The Commission heard from Mr. Tirone regarding his experience in Boxford, where allocations under the CPA have been difficult to get approved through their CPA committee. Ms. Durocher summarized some of the issues expressed as the basis for the Finance Committee's negative vote and the dissenting vote in the Board of Selectmen. On the whole, Commissioners saw the CPA as a potentially positive program that could result in additional funding for projects of interest to the Commission.

Mr. Tirone made a motion to accept and endorse the CPA Warrant Article. Mr. White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Site visit to Spy Pond Park**

Ms. Garnett reported on a site visit to Spy Pond which she made with Carol Johnson, the landscape architect who had formerly provided a comprehensive site plan for the Spy Pond Park. As a start to creating a preliminary design for upgrading Spy Pond Park, Carol Johnson, Ms. Garnett and Karen Grossman, the Chair of the Friends of Spy Pond, walked through the park on 3/11. They discussed a variety of technical approaches to performing improvements to Spy Pond Park. They plan to develop a Notice of Intent for review by the Commission. Mr. Tirone suggested that the detailed plan should be shared with the Parks & Recreation Commission with the hope that they could be a possible

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Durocher  
Commission Associate member